WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education and the education community lost a valued member and leader on November 3, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ella B. Bell received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Tuskegee Institute in 1969, a Master’s Degree in Education Administration from Alabama State University in 1974, and pursued doctoral coursework (with the exception of her dissertation) from The University of Alabama from 1974-1977; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Mrs. Ella B. Bell was a tireless advocate in pursuit of a quality education for all students; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2001 Mrs. Ella B. Bell was sworn in as Alabama State Board of Education Member for State School Board District Five, the largest board district in the state; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure on the Board, Mrs. Ella B. Bell served dutifully as a committed Board member and served two terms as President Pro-Tem from 2012-2014 and Vice President from 2014-2015; and

WHEREAS, during Mrs. Bell’s notable tenure on the Alabama State Board of Education, she supported the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA) and significant education initiatives including, but not limited to, Alabama's PLAN 2020, Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards, Career and Technical Education Programs, state intervention in school systems with financial and academic deficits, Torchbearer Schools, Alabama Reading Initiative, Character Education, Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide (ACCESS), Alabama Learning Exchange (ALEX), Educational Ruler, and Principal and Superintendent Leadership Academies; and

WHEREAS, her many leadership roles, community involvements, and honors included Tuskegee University Alumni Association; Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Sorority; SISTAS, a support group for women surviving breast cancer; the Montgomery County Democratic Conference; Vice-Chairperson for Women Affairs for the Alabama Democratic Conference; the Spirit of Freedom Award from the City of Mosses, Alabama; three citations from the governor for State Combined United Way Campaign; Montgomery Area United Way Record-Setting Fundraiser for the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation; and recipient of numerous awards and honors:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Education pay tribute to Mrs. Ella B. Bell’s leadership and dedicated service and further express our condolences and deepest sympathy to her family; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we do hereby honor the memory of Mrs. Ella B. Bell for her service to the schools, students, educators, and parents in the state of Alabama and for her advocacy of high standards, accountability, and overall elevation of improving public education.

Done this 14th day of November 2019